



## WIRELESS E-911 SERVICES BOARD

September 14, 2005

10:00 a.m.

110 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Members Present:	Lem Stewart, Chairman Robert Woltz, Co-Chairman Tracy Hanger Chief Henry Stanley John Howell	Pat Shumate Linda Cage Captain John Furlough Denise Smith
Remote:	Southwest Virginia	
Members Absent:	Sheriff Ron Oakes Chief Michael Neuhard	David Von Moll Fred Vincent
Staff Present:	Steve Marzolf, Coordinator Dorothy Spears-Dean, Analyst	Sam Keys, Analyst Terry Mayo, Assistant

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Stewart, Chairman, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES**

Mr. Stewart called for the approval of the July Minutes as written. Mr. Howell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes for July; approved 9-0-0.

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Marzolf gave an update of the financial report for the June closing date, and informed the Board that the spreadsheet shows an ending balance of \$17,574,093.19 (this includes LMU settlements and \$3-5,000,000 for carrier payments. Mr. Marzolf also updated the Board on the \$1,000,000 transfer to the general fund.

#### **4. CMRS MONTHLY STATUS SUMMARY**

Mr. Marzolf reminded the Board that in continuing with the format he introduced at the last meeting in July any new items are in bold on the sheet. Mr. Marzolf presented the Board with the CMRS status (see attached spreadsheet). Mr. Stewart asked if there were questions, and there were none.

#### **5. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Marzolf gave the Board an update on the Legislative Committee that was formed as a result of the last Board meeting. The committee met three times -- August 11, August 16, and September 1. The first meeting was used to brain storm idea. The second meeting was used to define the recommendations in lay terms, and the third meeting was to focus on the actual legislative language and to recommend necessary changes (see attachment). Since the legislative committee recommendations had been incorporated with the FY2005 Annual Report, at the conclusion of presenting the report, Mr. Marzolf suggested that approval be considered as part of the Annual Report approval process.

#### **6. FY2005 ANNUAL REPORT APPROVAL**

Mr. Marzolf reminded the Board that the Annual Report must be approved at this meeting, but that the actual legislative language could wait until the November meeting. As a result, he recommended that the specific legislative language be removed from the report to allow more time to work with stakeholders. Mr. Marzolf advised that he could search for a willing patron of the legislation based on the current draft in the meantime. Mr. Stewart recommended that the Legislative Committee be retained to review any revisions considered in the legislation. Mr. Hanson, from the audience, addressed the Board on behalf of Virginia APCO reading from the attached letter. There was general discussion and several questions by Board members regarding whether all of the language regarding the legislative committee's recommendation would be removed from the report or only the legislative language. Mr. Marzolf clarified that it was only the legislative language and that the body of report still supported the overall recommendations of the committee.

Mr. Howell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Woltz, to approve the annual report as written, with the exception of removing Appendix D (the specific legislative language); approved 7-1-0 (Chief Stanley not present).

#### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

a) Wireline Extension Request (Appomattox) —Mr. Marzolf provided the Board with a request for wireline extension from Appomattox County and is recommending that the Board approve this request. Mr. Howell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cage, to approve the request; approved 8-0-0.

Mr. Marzolf informed the Board that he had also received a request for an adjustment from the City of Roanoke for their FY2006 funding request as a result of an error in its request. Mr. Marzolf recommended approval. Mr. Woltz made a motion, seconded by Capt. Furlough, to approve the request; approved 8-0-0.

b) CMRS – Verizon Wireless FY2006 request – Mr. Marzolf informed the Board that the CMRS Committee met before the Board meeting and is recommending approval of the Verizon Wireless FY2006 request. Mr. Howell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shumate, to approve the request; approved 8-0-0.

9. **ADJOURN MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Mr. Stewart called for the motion that the meeting of the Board be adjourned. All approved that the meeting be adjourned, and so moved; 8-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Board: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

# Proposed Wireless Legislation

## § 56-484.12. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Automatic location identification" or "ALI" means a telecommunications network capability that enables the automatic display of information defining the geographical location of the telephone used to place a wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 call.

"Automatic number identification" or "ANI" means a telecommunications network capability that enables the automatic display of the telephone number used to place a wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 call.

"Board" means the Wireless E-911 Services Board created pursuant to this article.

"Chief Information Officer" or "CIO" means the Chief Information Officer appointed pursuant to § 2.2-2005.

"Coordinator" means the Virginia Public Safety Communications Systems Coordinator employed by the Division.

"CMRS" means mobile telecommunications service as defined in the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act, 4 U.S.C. § 124, as amended.

"CMRS provider" means an entity authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to provide CMRS within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Division" means the Division of Public Safety Communications created in § 2.2-2031.

"Enhanced 9-1-1 service" or "E-911" means a service consisting of telephone network features and PSAPs provided for users of telephone systems enabling such users to reach a PSAP by dialing the digits "9-1-1." Such service automatically directs 9-1-1 emergency telephone calls to the appropriate PSAPs by selective routing based on the geographical location from which the emergency call originated and provides the capability for ANI and ALI features.

"FCC order" means Federal Communications Commission Order 94-102 (61 Federal Register 40348) and any other FCC order that affects the provision of E-911 service to CMRS customers.

"Local exchange carrier" means any public service company granted a certificate to furnish public utility service for the provision of local exchange telephone service pursuant to Chapter 10.1 (§ 56-265.1 et seq.) of Title 56.

"Place of primary use" has the meaning attributed in subsection M of § 58.1-3812.

"Public safety answering point" or "PSAP" means a facility (i) equipped and staffed on a 24-hour basis to receive and process E-911 calls or (ii) that intends to receive and process

E-911 calls and has notified CMRS providers in its jurisdiction of its intention to receive and process such calls.

*“VoIP Service” means interconnected voice over Internet protocol service as defined in FCC Order 05-116, Part 9 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations 9.3, as may be amended.*

~~“Wireless E-911 CMRS costs” means all reasonable, direct recurring and nonrecurring capital costs and operating expenses incurred by CMRS providers in designing, upgrading, leasing, purchasing, programming, installing, testing, administering, delivering, or maintaining all necessary data, hardware, software and local exchange telephone service required to provide wireless E-911 service, which have been sworn to by an authorized agent of a CMRS provider.~~

“Wireless E-911 fund” means a dedicated fund consisting of all moneys collected pursuant to the wireless E-911 surcharge, as well as any additional funds otherwise allocated or donated to the wireless E-911 fund.

~~“Wireless E-911 PSAP costs” means all reasonable direct recurring and nonrecurring capital costs and operating expenses incurred by a PSAP in designing, upgrading, leasing, purchasing, programming, installing, testing, administering, delivering, or maintaining all necessary data, hardware, software and local exchange telephone service required to provide wireless E-911 service and direct personnel costs incurred in receiving and dispatching wireless E-911 emergency telephone calls, which have been sworn to by an authorized agent of the PSAP.~~

“Wireless E-911 service” means the E-911 service required to be provided by CMRS providers pursuant to the FCC order.

“Wireless E-911 surcharge” means a monthly fee of \$0.75 billed by each CMRS provider and CMRS reseller on each CMRS number of a customer with a place of primary use in Virginia; provided, however, that any fee collected or paid pursuant to the third paragraph of subsection B of § 56-484.17 is not required to be billed.

§ 56-484.13. Wireless E-911 Services Board; membership; terms; compensation.

A. The Wireless E-911 Services Board is hereby created, which shall promote and assist in the statewide development, deployment, and maintenance of enhanced wireless emergency telecommunications services and technologies. The Board shall similarly promote and assist in the development and deployment of enhanced wireline emergency telecommunications services and technologies only in specific local jurisdictions that are not currently wireline E-911 capable. The Board shall exercise the powers and duties conferred in this article.

B. The Board shall consist of 14 members as follows: the Chief Information Officer, who shall serve as chairman of the Board; the Comptroller, who shall serve as the treasurer of the Board; and the following twelve members to be appointed by the Governor: one member representing the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, one member representing the Virginia State Police, one member representing a local exchange carrier providing E-911 service in Virginia, two members representing wireless service

providers authorized to do business in Virginia, two county, city or town PSAP directors or managers, one Virginia sheriff, one chief of police, one fire chief, one emergency medical services manager, and one finance officer of a county, city, or town.

C. Initial appointments to the Board shall be for the following terms: four members shall serve five-year terms, four members shall serve four-year terms, and four members shall serve three-year terms. Thereafter, all members appointed by the Governor shall serve five-year terms. The CIO and the Comptroller shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. No gubernatorial appointee shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

D. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall hold its first meeting on or before October 1, 2000, and shall meet at least monthly through June 2002, and at least quarterly thereafter, or at the call of its chairman.

E. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation; however, members of the Board shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 through 2.2-2826.

F. The Division shall provide staff support to the Board. The Geographic Information Network Division created in § 2.2-2026 and the Virginia Department of Transportation shall provide such technical advice as the Board requires.

§ 56-484.14. Powers and duties of Wireless E-911 Services Board.

The Board shall have the power and duty to:

1. Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers, including purchase agreements payable from (i) the Wireless E-911 Fund and (ii) other moneys appropriated for the provision of enhanced ~~wireline~~ emergency telecommunications services ~~only in specific local jurisdictions that are not wireline E-911 capable as of July 1, 2000.~~
2. Pursue all legal remedies to enforce any provision of this article, or any contract entered into pursuant to this article.
3. Develop a comprehensive, *statewide enhanced emergency telecommunications plan for wireless E-911, VoIP E-911 and any other future communications technologies accessing E-911 for emergency purposes* ~~emergency telecommunications plan for implementing statewide enhanced wireless and VoIP emergency telecommunications services.~~ In constructing and periodically updating this plan as appropriate, the Board shall monitor trends and advances in enhanced wireless, *VoIP and other* emergency telecommunications technologies, plan and forecast future needs for *these* enhanced ~~wireless emergency telecommunications~~ technologies, and formulate strategies for the efficient and effective delivery of enhanced ~~wireless~~ emergency telecommunications services *in the future.*
4. *Promote the implementation of the plan to address future needs of the enhanced emergency telecommunications technologies by providing grant funding to PSAPs and telecommunications providers that support the plan.*

5. Develop and adopt regulations, in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), *for the expenditure of funds* for ~~funding~~ enhanced wireless *and of other appropriated funds* for emergency telecommunication services in the Commonwealth.

6. Grant such extensions of time for compliance with the provisions of § 56-484.16 as the Board deems appropriate.

7. Take all steps necessary to inform the public of the use of the digits "9-1-1" as the designated emergency telephone number and the use of the digits "#-7-7" as a designated non-emergency telephone number.

8. Report annually to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Virginia State Crime Commission on (i) the state of enhanced ~~wireless~~-emergency telecommunications services in the Commonwealth, (ii) the impact of, or need for, legislation affecting enhanced ~~wireless~~-emergency telecommunications services in the Commonwealth, *and* (iii) the need for changes in the ~~Wireless~~-E-911 funding mechanism *provided to the Board*, as appropriate, ~~and (iv) the sufficiency of other moneys appropriated for the provision of enhanced wireline emergency telecommunications services only in those local jurisdictions not wireline capable as of July 1, 2000.~~

9. Provide advisory technical assistance to PSAPs and state and local law enforcement, and fire and emergency medical service agencies, upon request.

10. Collect, distribute, and withhold moneys from the Wireless E-911 Fund as provided in this article.

11. Develop a comprehensive single, statewide electronic addressing database to support geographic data and statewide base map data programs pursuant to § 2.2-2027.

12. Receive such funds as may be appropriated for purposes consistent with this article and such gifts, donations, grants, bequests, or other funds as may be received from, applied for or offered by either public or private sources.

13. Manage other moneys appropriated for the provision of enhanced ~~wireline~~-emergency telecommunications services ~~only in specific local jurisdictions that are not wireline E-911 capable as of July 1, 2000.~~

14. Perform all acts necessary, convenient or desirable to carrying out the purposes of this article.

*15. Drawing from the work of E-911 professional organizations, in its sole discretion, publish best practices for PSAPs. These best practices shall be voluntary and recommended by a subcommittee composed of PSAP representatives.*

§ 56-484.15. Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee established.

A. There is hereby established a Wireless Carrier E-911 Cost Recovery Subcommittee of the Board. The Subcommittee shall (i) meet only to determine whether costs submitted by CMRS providers are reasonable and direct to the provision of wireless E-911 service and

(ii) review only those documents necessary to determine whether costs submitted by CMRS providers are reasonable and direct to the provision of wireless E-911 service.

B. The Subcommittee shall consist of the following six members from the Board: the representative of the Virginia State Police; the two PSAP directors or managers; the finance officer of a county, city or town; the CIO, who shall serve as the Subcommittee's chairman; and the Comptroller.

C. Staff to the Subcommittee shall be provided by the Division of Public Safety Communications created pursuant to § 2.2-2031.

D. Unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, no member or staff of the Subcommittee shall release or disclose the contents of documents used to determine whether costs submitted by CMRS providers are reasonable and direct to the provision of wireless E-911 service.

§ 56-484.16. Local emergency telecommunications requirements; use of digits "9-1-1".

A. On or before July 1, 2003, every county, city or town in the Commonwealth shall be served by an E-911 system, unless an extension of time has been granted by the Board.

B. The digits "9-1-1" shall be the designated emergency telephone number in Virginia. No public safety agency shall advertise or otherwise promote the use of any number for emergency response service other than "9-1-1".

§ 56-484.17. Wireless E-911 Fund; uses of Fund; enforcement; audit required.

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Wireless E-911 Fund (the Fund). The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Except as provided in § 2.2-2031, moneys in the Fund shall be used ~~solely~~ for the purposes stated in subsections C through ~~DE~~. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth.

B. Each CMRS provider shall collect a wireless E-911 surcharge from each of its customers whose place of primary use is within the Commonwealth. In addition, the wireless E-911 surcharge shall be imposed on wireless customers who purchase prepaid CMRS service, subject to the provisions in this subsection. However, no surcharge shall be imposed on federal, state and local government agencies. A payment equal to all wireless E-911 surcharges shall be remitted within 30 days to the Board for deposit in the Fund. Each CMRS provider and CMRS reseller may retain an amount equal to three percent of the amount collected to defray the costs of collecting the surcharges. State and local taxes shall not apply to any wireless E-911 surcharge collected from customers. Surcharges collected from customers who do not purchase CMRS service on a prepaid basis shall be subject to the provisions of subsection K of § 58.1-3812.



For CMRS customers who do not purchase CMRS service on a prepaid basis, the CMRS provider and CMRS reseller shall collect the surcharge through regular periodic billing.

For CMRS customers who purchase CMRS service on a prepaid basis, the wireless E-911 surcharge shall be determined according to one of the following methodologies:

- a. The CMRS provider and CMRS reseller shall collect, on a monthly basis, the wireless E-911 surcharge from each active prepaid customer whose account balance is equal to or greater than the amount of the surcharge; or
- b. The CMRS provider and CMRS reseller shall divide its total earned prepaid wireless telephone revenue with respect to prepaid customers in the Commonwealth within the monthly E-911 reporting period by \$50, multiply the quotient by the surcharge amount, and pay the resulting amount to the Board without collecting a separate charge from its prepaid customers for such amount; or
- c. The CMRS provider and CMRS reseller shall collect the surcharge at the point of sale.

Collection of the wireless E-911 surcharge from or with respect to prepaid customers shall not reduce the sales price for purposes of taxes which are collected at point of sale.

~~C. To the extent of appropriated funds, the Board shall provide full payment to PSAP operators for all wireless E-911 PSAP costs and to CMRS providers of all wireless E-911 CMRS costs. For these purposes (i) each PSAP operator shall submit to the Board on or before October 1 of each year, an estimate of wireless E-911 PSAP costs it expects to incur during its next fiscal year and (ii) each CMRS provider shall submit to the Board on or before December 31 of each year an estimate of wireless E-911 CMRS costs it expects to incur during the next fiscal year of counties and municipalities in whose jurisdiction it operates. The Board shall review such estimates and advise each PSAP operator and CMRS provider on or before the following March 1 whether its estimate qualifies for payment hereunder and whether the Wireless E-911 Fund is expected to be sufficient for such payment during said fiscal year. Each PSAP operator and CMRS provider shall notify the Board promptly of any material change in its plans to provide wireless E-911 service. Fifty percent of the Wireless E-911 fund shall be distributed on a monthly basis to the PSAPs according to the percentage of recurring wireless E-911 funding received by the PSAP for FY2006, as determined by the Board. The Board shall recalculate the distribution percentage for each PSAP at the start of each biennium based on the cost and call load data from the previous fiscal year. The other fifty percent of the fund shall be distributed to PSAP, CMRS providers or on behalf of PSAPs and CMRS providers based on grant requests received by the Board each fiscal year. The Board shall establish criteria for receiving and making grants from Fund, including procedures for determining the amount of a grant and payment schedule, however the grants must be to the benefit of wireless E-911. Any Wireless E-911 funding that has not been committed by the Board by the end of the fiscal year shall be distributed to the PSAPs based on the same distribution percentage used during the fiscal year in which the funding was collected.~~

~~D. The Board shall make such qualifying payments to each PSAP operator and CMRS provider at the beginning of each calendar quarter of such fiscal year or on an alternate schedule approved by the Board. If the Wireless E-911 Fund is insufficient during any~~

~~calendar quarter to make all such qualifying payments, the Board shall prorate payments equally among all PSAP operators and CMRS providers during such calendar quarter. Unpaid amounts may be included in future funding requests to the Board.~~

~~E.~~ After the end of each fiscal year, on a schedule adopted by the Board, the Board shall *audit the grant funding received by all recipients to ensure it was utilized in accordance with the grant requirements* ~~determine whether qualifying payments to PSAP operators and CMRS providers during the preceding fiscal year exceeded or were less than the actual wireless E-911 PSAP costs or wireless E-911 CMRS costs of any PSAP operator or CMRS provider.~~ Each grant recipient shall provide such verification of such costs as may be requested by the Board. Any overpayment shall be refunded to the Board or credited to qualifying payments during the then current fiscal year, on such schedule as the Board shall determine. If payments are less than the actual costs reported, the Board may include the additional funding ~~with the next quarterly payment for~~ *in* the then current fiscal year.

~~F.~~ ~~Any estimate of wireless E-911 PSAP costs submitted to the Board after October 1 and any estimate of wireless E-911 CMRS costs submitted to the Board after December 31 of any year shall be reviewed by the Board as described in subsection C to the extent practicable as determined by the Board; however, any PSAP or CMRS costs submitted after the start of the fiscal year shall not be considered by the Board. Qualifying payments based on estimates submitted in accordance with the schedule set forth in subsection C shall have priority for payment.~~

~~G.~~ ~~CMRS providers and PSAPs found by the Board to be using the Wireless E-911 Fund moneys for purposes other than those authorized by the Board shall be provided with written notice by the Board of such unauthorized expenditures. Upon receipt of the notice, the named CMRS provider or PSAP shall cease making any expenditure involving Wireless E-911 Fund moneys identified by the Board as unauthorized. The CMRS provider or PSAP may petition and shall receive a hearing before the Board within a reasonable time. At the Board's discretion, the CMRS provider or PSAP shall be required to refund within 90 days any Wireless E-911 Fund moneys spent on unauthorized expenditures to the Board for deposit into the Wireless E-911 Fund. CMRS providers or PSAPs who fail to cease making unauthorized expenditures or fail to comply with a request to refund Wireless E-911 Fund moneys shall be subject to a suspension of future Wireless E-911 funding by the Board until such time as they comply with all provisions of this article. Any action of the Board made pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to appeal to the circuit court in which the CMRS provider or PSAP is located, or to the Circuit Court for the City of Richmond.~~

~~H.~~ The Auditor of Public Accounts, or his legally authorized representatives, shall annually audit the Wireless E-911 Fund. The cost of such audit shall be borne by the Board and be payable from the Wireless E-911 Fund, as appropriate. The Board shall furnish copies of the audits to the Governor, the Public Safety Subcommittees of the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Virginia State Crime Commission.

I. The special tax authorized by § 58.1-3813.1 shall not be imposed on consumers of CMRS.

**ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICIALS-INTERNATIONAL, INC. (APCO)  
VIRGINIA CHAPTER**

Scott Chandler,  
President

D. Terry Hall,  
President Elect

Bill Agee,  
Vice-President

Carol Adams,  
Secretary

Melinda Bramley,  
Treasurer

Ron Wade,  
Past President

Tom Hanson,  
Executive Board Member

Lee Gilbert,  
Member at Large

September 13, 2005

Dear Virginia Wireless Services Board Member,

With the actions of the Legislative Sub-Committee and their recommendations to the Board, the Executive Board of the Virginia Chapter of APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International, Inc.) has the following comments regarding the recommendations of this Sub-Committee and the legislative changes to be proposed in the annual report.

We recognize the importance of this Wireless Board and its impact and great contributions to facilitating and placing Virginia in the forefront of E911 Wireless Implementation and commend them for those efforts and accomplishments.

The Virginia Chapter of APCO has been involved for many years and, in fact, was instrumental in drafting the legislation which initially set the groundwork for the establishment of the Virginia Wireless Services Board and which continues as its guiding direction. The review of the current changes anticipated to be put before this Board raises concerns. These concerns range from funding to language changes within the legislation. Language changes clearly appear to remove the focus of this Board from wireless to "enhanced emergency telecommunication services." Such an action that would take this Board's duties and responsibilities clearly out of its original intent, the deployment of E-911 wireless services. It is unclear why such a change is necessary or warranted and there has been little or no explanation defining the need for such a change or in the expansion of this Board into areas outside of its original charter.

It is our recommendation that the focus of the Virginia E-911 Wireless Board should be to complete and augment any remaining E-911 *wireless* deployments in this state and, in doing so, completing the purpose for which the Board was established.

There were several issues brought and discussed by the legislative sub-committee that we would like to address:

**VoIP**

It is not our recommendation that the responsibilities of this Board be expanded to address voice over-internet protocol (VoIP). Funding from the VoIP provider is a significant concern of the PSAPs. Much of the infrastructure is in place in providing for the routing of these calls to the PSAPs and thus realizing little or no additional preparations, equipment upgrades, etc. are needed to facilitate the taking of these calls. As such, it is unclear what role this Board should or could have in this matter.

### **IP-based network**

It has been obvious from discussions that an IP-based network is a goal the State has in implementing a secure network that will provide access for many platforms within the State government structures. As a Board whose charter is to facilitate Wireless E-911 within the entire Commonwealth, it is not felt this Board should tackle such an unrelated task. Comments have been made which clearly indicate the State will go forward with an IP-based network and, therefore, it is believed, there are other agencies within the Commonwealth much better equipped to handle this enormous task and it is inappropriate to have the Virginia E-911 Wireless Board oversee such a network.

### **Best Practices**

There are numerous standards and/or best practices available addressing all facets of the PSAP. Of concern from the discussions of the sub-committee include the lack of what specific standards and/or best practices would be developed. There were general conversations regarding best practices; however, there has been no clear indication of the need or what productive outcome would come from the establishment of such "best practices."

The definition of a "PSAP" is clearly identified in current legislation and is felt sufficient in defining and providing guidance in what constitutes a Public Safety Answering Point within the Commonwealth.

In addition, standards and/or best practices for many areas of the PSAP are available and easily accessible from numerous professional organizations. These include NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), AFTM (Association for Testing Materials), CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.), NENA (National Emergency Number Association), APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International, Inc.), and DCJS (Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services).

It is strongly felt that established standards and/or best practices are best handled in today's climate by these professional organizations and should not be a duty of this Board. In fact, when the attendees at the legislative sub-committee were polled, only one individual supported the establishment of "best practices" through the Wireless Board. There were approximately 20 PSAP representatives in attendance.

### **Funding**

It is with concern that funding is repeatedly brought before the Wireless Board. Many representatives of PSAPs and/or 9-1-1 Centers throughout the Commonwealth have expressed concern for the raiding of wireless funds and/or the limitation of funding available (replacement equipment, etc.). The sub-committee should be applauded for its efforts in hearing the concerns of the PSAPs and in its efforts to get the money to the PSAPs where it is needed. Although this sub-committee has reviewed other potential funding restructuring, basically a 'level funding plan,' such a plan, as recommended, leaves many unanswered questions. It is felt it would be prudent for action regarding funding to be deferred until such time as the funding structure and any changes and their impacts are fully thought out.

Approximately 2 years ago a sub-committee addressed the funding issue. It was the outcome of that sub-committee that the funding formula need not be changed; however, it is our recollection that this sub-committee felt it did not have sufficient data to support a change in the funding formula, but did identify a strong need to address funding at its current state. The wireless percentage has always been a concern and different funding modalities cannot be addressed without sufficient data and the impact of any change. Hence, the "level funding plan" reviewed by the current sub-committee offers some hope, it does not provide sufficient data identifying the current and future impact of funding.

The Executive Council of the Virginia Chapter of APCO has worked for many years closely with its membership and the Wireless Board. It is our desire to continue this working relationship in hopes of finding solutions to the funding concerns that are repeatedly at the forefront of our membership.

Sincerely,

Scott Chandler,  
President  
Virginia Chapter of APCO